

SOUTHWEST REGION

The Southwest Region covers nine counties in the southwestern part of the state: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties. Major state highways include I-69, I-94, I-196, US-12, US-31, and US-131.



The Southwest Region is the state's fruit basket thanks to the moderating climate effect of Lake Michigan. The region is traversed by I-94, an important international trade corridor linking Port Huron and Detroit to Chicago and Toronto. This makes the Southwest Region an ideal location for many industries, particularly those supporting the automobile manufacturing industry. To bolster industries and commerce important to the region and the state, project selection emphasizes freeway improvements and modernization.

The Southwest Region also boasts a significant tourist trade. To welcome visitors to Michigan, MDOT's Southwest Region has improved most highway entrances into Michigan, with an additional entrance improvement scheduled for 2006. Travelers will especially appreciate the updated "Welcome to Michigan" signs, with their resplendent landscaping, featuring flowers and other plantings from Michigan nurseries.

Past Accomplishments

The Southwest Region continues to work towards meeting MDOT's statewide pavement and bridge condition goals. Achievements of the Southwest Region's 2002 program include:

- **Reconstruction of three miles of I-69** from south of US-12 to State Street, including five bridges in Branch county. This project is part of the continuing effort to upgrade I-69 from the state line to the southern Eaton County line.
- **Rehabilitation of seven miles of I-94** from the St. Joseph River to east of I-196, including replacing the two bridges over M-139 in Berrien County.

- **Rehabilitation/reconstruction of three miles of I-94 BL** from Territorial Road to Clark Street including construction of a new bridge over I-94 in Albion which began in 2001.
- **Reconstruction of two miles of M-63** between the St. Joseph River and Grand Avenue in the cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor which began in 2001.
- **Reconstruction of the M-43/M-40 intersection**, to five lanes with an extended through- lane in Van Buren County.
- **Intersection improvements to M-40 at 134th and 136th Streets**, including construction of center left turn lanes in Allegan County.

These are but a few of the \$81 million in construction contracts awarded by the Southwest Region in 2002.

Twenty-seven miles of road were improved under the “rehabilitate and reconstruct” program with another 157 miles improved under the capital preventive maintenance program, translating to 15% of all Southwest Region route miles receiving some type of rehabilitation or repair. Seven bridges were improved under the rehabilitate and reconstruct bridge program, and thirty-one bridges received maintenance work which represents 7% of the bridge system for the Southwest Region.

Projects that were awarded in 2002 and will be completed in 2003 include:

- **US-12 reconstruction**, approximately one mile of roadway reconstruction including widening, curb & gutter, and storm sewer in Sturgis, St. Joseph County.
- **Completion of the concrete paving of the ten mile segment of US-31 freeway**, between Berrien Springs and Napier Road in Berrien County.
- **Rehabilitation of the I-94BL “Bicentennial” bridge** over the St. Joseph River in Benton Harbor, Berrien County.

All other Southwest Region projects scheduled for 2002 were completed.

Five Year Road and Bridge Program

The projects identified in this 2003 to 2007 Five Year Road and Bridge Program for the Southwest Region total approximately \$298 million. Investments are allocated in the following manner:

Preserve First	\$ 33 Million
Road & Bridge Preservation	\$238 Million
Capacity Improvements & New Roads	
Design & Pre-Construction Activities	\$ 27 Million

There are a number of programs that are selected based on statewide priorities or where project identification is completed throughout the year. These investments are not reflected above, but are included in the statewide investment strategy.

The 2003-2007 programs for road rehabilitation and reconstruction and capacity improvement work will upgrade more than 160 miles of the region's 1,225 miles. Thirty (6%) of the region's 494 bridges will be improved (rehabilitated or reconstructed) between 2003 and 2007, with additional bridge maintenance activities to be programmed on a year to year basis. More than \$285 million will be invested in the Southwest Region in the next five years on rehabilitating and reconstructing roads and bridges as well as capacity improvement work.

In addition, capital preventive maintenance projects, programmed annually, are planned for a significant number of pavements and bridges that do not yet require more extensive repairs. This treatment will improve the pavement/bridge condition and extend the roadway's life.

Corridor Improvement Strategies

The US-131 BR/Industrial Corridor in Kalamazoo received designated funds through TEA-21 legislation. An economic impact study is being conducted by the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, Kalamazoo's metropolitan planning organization. As discussed above, the Southwest Region continues to complete projects that were identified in a multiple year corridor improvement strategy. The I-69 corridor continues to be improved from the Indiana state line to the southern Eaton County line. To complete the corridor improvements, projects are scheduled in 2003, 2004, and 2007.

Capacity Improvements and New Roads

US-31 Relocation to Napier Road, Berrien County.

The construction of a new US-31 freeway from existing US-31 in Berrien Springs to Napier Road is nearing completion and will be open to traffic in August 2003.

US-31, Napier Avenue to I-94, Berrien County.

The last segment of the new limited access freeway is in the final stages of the environmental clearance process. A preferred alternative has been recommended and the Federal Highway Administration and state resource agencies have completed their review of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). A Record of Decision for the preferred alternative is expected in 2003. The MDOT will proceed with the design and right-of-way acquisition phases after a Record of Decision is granted by the Federal Highway Administration. Design and right of way phases should be completed in 2005. The construction phase is deferred to a future Five Year Road and Bridge Program. Napier Avenue, the temporary connection between US-31 and I-94, has been widened to meet current and future traffic needs.

I-94, US-131 to Sprinkle Road, Kalamazoo County.

This segment of I-94 between US-131 and Sprinkle Road in the Cities of Kalamazoo and Portage was identified as the section most in need of widening within the 2000 Kalamazoo Area Freeway Needs Study. An Environmental Assessment was approved by the Federal Highway Administration in February of 2003. Design work is underway and will be completed in 2004.

US-131, State Line to North Township Line Lockport Township, St. Joseph County.

MDOT is conducting an early preliminary engineering (EPE) study to obtain environmental clearance for a preferred improvement alternative for US-131 from the State Line to Edgerton Road north of Three Rivers (16.0 miles). Completion of the environmental clearance was scheduled for 2003, however the consideration of a new alternative has caused the department to extend the schedule into 2005.

Upon completion of the EPE study, the department will review funding opportunities for subsequent project phases along the corridor, including Constantine.

I-94 Business Loop, Battle Creek, Calhoun County.

An agreement has been reached between MDOT and the City of Battle Creek regarding a modified project along I-94BL. The proposed improvements include the widening of Dickman Road (relocated I-94 Business Loop) to 5 lanes, from I-194 to Main Street and to 3 lanes between Main Street and Elm Street. The intersection of Elm Street (relocated I-94BL) and Michigan Avenue would receive minor geometric improvements as part of this plan. The design, right-of-way acquisition and construction will be deferred to a future Five Year Plan.

FIVE YEAR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE PROGRAM
Repair and Rebuild Roads

COUNTY	ROUTE (COMMON NAME)	BM III	LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	LENGTH	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
ALLEGAN	I-196 NB		I-196 NB OVER 71ST STREET	BRIDGE - SUBSTRUCTURE REPAIR	0.000			CON		
ALLEGAN	I-196		BLACK RIVER TO 111TH AVENUE	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	5.973					CON
ALLEGAN	I-196		OVER 71ST STREET	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000			CON		
ALLEGAN	I-196 SB		I-196 SB OVER 71ST STREET	BRIDGE - SUBSTRUCTURE REPAIR	0.000			CON		
ALLEGAN	M-40		NORTH OF HAMILTON TO I-196	ROAD - RESURFACE AND SHOULDERS	4.510			CON		
ALLEGAN	M-89 (EAST BRIDGE STREET)		OVER KALAMAZOO RIVER	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000		CON			
ALLEGAN	M-89 (EAST BRIDGE STREET)		M-89 OVER KALAMAZOO RIVER	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000		CON			
ALLEGAN	M-89		I-196/US-31 TO FENNVILLE	ROAD - OVERLAY	6.340		CON			
ALLEGAN	US-131		WAYLAND TO KENT COUNTY LINE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND SHOULDERS	7.650	CON				
BARRY	M-43 (GROVE STREET)		BUSH TO DELTON, DELTON	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	0.520					CON
BARRY	M-66 (MAIN STREET)		ASSYRIA ROAD TO FRANCES STREET	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	4.590				CON	
BARRY	M-79		BARRYVILLE ROAD TO WEST OF NASHVILLE	ROAD - OVERLAY	3.430			CON		
BERRIEN	I-196 NB		I-196 NB OVER I-94	BRIDGE - SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACE	0.000			CON		
BERRIEN	I-196 SB		I-196 SB OVER I-94	BRIDGE - SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACE	0.000			CON		
BERRIEN	I-196		OVER I-94, NORTHEAST OF BENTON HARBOR	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000			CON		
BERRIEN	I-94 (RED ARROW HIGHWAY)		OVER OLD US-12	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94 EB (RED ARROW HIGHWAY)		I-94 EB OVER OLD US-12	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94		EB AND WB OVER CSX RAILROAD	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000	CON				
BERRIEN	I-94 EB		I-94 EB OVER CSX RAILROAD	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000	CON				
BERRIEN	I-94 WB		I-94 WB OVER CSX RAILROAD	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000	CON				
BERRIEN	I-94 WB		WATERVLIET REST AREA	REST AREA - BUILDING REPLACEMENT					CON	
BERRIEN	I-94		OVER GALIEN RIVER	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000					CON
BERRIEN	I-94 WB		I-94 WB OVER GALIEN RIVER	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000					CON
BERRIEN	I-94		OVER SAWYER ROAD	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000			CON		
BERRIEN	I-94 EB		I-94 EB OVER SAWYER ROAD	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000			CON		
BERRIEN	I-94		FIVE BRIDGES, BERRIEN COUNTY	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94		THREE OAKS ROAD OVER I-94	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94		BROWNTOWN ROAD OVER I-94	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94		LIVINGSTON ROAD OVER I-94	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94		WASHINGTON AVENUE OVER I-94	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94		BOYER ROAD OVER I-94	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94 EB		I-94 EB OVER CONRAIL (ABANDONED)	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REMOVE AND FILL	0.000				CON	
BERRIEN	I-94 WB		I-94 WB OVER CONRAIL (ABANDONED)	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REMOVE AND FILL	0.000				CON	
BERRIEN	I-94 WB (RED ARROW HIGHWAY)		I-94 WB OVER OLD US-12	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000		CON			
BERRIEN	I-94 EB		I-94 EB OVER GALIEN RIVER	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000					CON

FIVE YEAR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE PROGRAM
Repair and Rebuild Roads

COUNTY	ROUTE (COMMON NAME)	BM III	LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	LENGTH	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
BERRIEN	I-94 WB		I-94 WB OVER SAWYER ROAD	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000			CON		
BERRIEN	I-94 EB		I-196 TO M-140	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	5.000					CON
BERRIEN	I-94		OVER CONRAIL (ABANDONED)	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000				CON	
BERRIEN	M-51 (FIFTH STREET)		US-12 BR TO PUCKER ROAD	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	2.600			CON		
BERRIEN	M-63 (NILES AVENUE)		DOZER/ROGES AVENUE TO LYDIA AVENUE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	1.811	CON				
BERRIEN	M-63 (NILES AVENUE)		M-63 OVER HICKORY CREEK	BRIDGE - SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT	0.000	CON				
BERRIEN	M-63 (MAIN STREET)		OVER ST JOSEPH RIVER	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000			CON		
BERRIEN	M-63 (MAIN STREET)		M-63 OVER ST JOSEPH RIVER	BRIDGE - MISCELLANEOUS REHABILITATION	0.000			CON		
BERRIEN	US-12 (PULASKI HIGHWAY)		WEST VILLAGE LIMITS TO TULIP, THREE OAKS	ROAD - RECONSTRUCTION	1.153	CON				
BERRIEN	US-12 BR		US-12 TO BROADWAY STREET	ROAD - OVERLAY	2.440			CON		
BERRIEN	US-31 (ST JOSEPH VALLEY PARKWA		STATELINE TO US-12	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	3.305				CON	
BERRIEN	US-31 BR		EAST OF US-12 BR TO FAIRLAND	ROAD - OVERLAY	6.110		CON			
BRANCH	I-69		HERRICKSVILLE ROAD OVER I-69	BRIDGE - PAINTING COMPLETE	0.000	CON				
BRANCH	I-69		DAYBURG ROAD OVER I-69	BRIDGE - PAINTING COMPLETE	0.000		CON			
BRANCH	I-69		GIRARD ROAD OVER I-69	BRIDGE - PAINTING COMPLETE	0.000		CON			
CALHOUN	I-69 SB		I-69 SB OVER CONRAIL (ABANDONED)	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000	CON				
CALHOUN	I-69		NORTH OF GIRARD ROAD TO "J" DRIVE	ROAD - RECONSTRUCT EXISTING, NO WIDENING	9.948	CON				
CALHOUN	I-69		"J" DRIVE SOUTH TO "A" DRIVE	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	5.170		CON			
CALHOUN	I-69 SB		I-69 SB OVER M-60	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - DEEP	0.000	CON				
CALHOUN	I-69 NB		I-69 NB OVER M-60	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - DEEP	0.000	CON				
CALHOUN	I-69		"A" DRIVE NORTH TO NORTH OF I-94	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	4.024				CON	
CALHOUN	I-69		"P" DRIVE OVER I-69	BRIDGE - PAINTING COMPLETE	0.000	CON				
CALHOUN	I-69		OLD US-27 OVER I-69	BRIDGE - PAINTING COMPLETE	0.000	CON				
CALHOUN	I-69 NB		I-69 NB OVER CONRAIL (ABANDONED)	BRIDGE - DECK REPLACEMENT	0.000	CON				
CALHOUN	I-69 WB		TURKEYVILLE REST AREA	REST AREA - BUILDING REPLACEMENT				CON		
CALHOUN	I-94 EB		171/2 MILE ROAD EAST TO COUNTY LINE	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	11.644			CON		
CALHOUN	I-94 EB		I-94 EB OVER RICE CREEK	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000			CON		
CALHOUN	I-94 WB		I-94 WB OVER RICE CREEK	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000			CON		
CALHOUN	I-94		TWO BRIDGES, CALHOUN COUNTY	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000		CON			
CALHOUN	I-94		27 MILE ROAD OVER I-94	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000		CON			
CALHOUN	I-94		29 MILE ROAD OVER I-94	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000		CON			
CALHOUN	I-94 WB		MARSHALL REST AREA	REST AREA - BUILDING CONSTRUCTION						CON
CALHOUN	I-94		UNDER 17 1/2 MILE ROAD	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000			CON		
CALHOUN	I-94		17 1/2 MILE ROAD OVER I-94	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000			CON		
CALHOUN	M-199		I-94 BL TO 27 MILE ROAD; 25 1/2 MILE ROAD TO I-94	ROAD - MILL AND RESURFACE	2.320		CON			

FIVE YEAR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE PROGRAM
Repair and Rebuild Roads

COUNTY	ROUTE (COMMON NAME)	BM III	LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	LENGTH	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CALHOUN	M-60		KALMAZOO RIVER TO JACKSON COUNTY LINE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND SHOULDERS	4.867					CON
CALHOUN	M-66 (CAPITAL AVENUE)		FREY DRIVE TO M-78	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	4.310		CON			
CALHOUN	M-89 (WASHINGTON STREET)		OVER BATTLE CREEK RIVER	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000			CON		
CALHOUN	M-89 (WASHINGTON STREET)		M-89 OVER BATTLE CREEK RIVER	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - SHALLOW	0.000			CON		
CALHOUN	M-96 (COLUMBIA AVENUE)		LAVISTA TO FOSTER, BATTLE CREEK	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	0.344		CON			
CALHOUN	M-99		SOUTH CALHOUN COUNTY LINE TO SOUTH CITY LIMITS HO	ROAD - RESURFACE	4.710			CON		
CASS	M-62		M-60 TO WEST HILTON ROAD	ROAD - RESURFACE	0.610		CON			
KALAMAZOO	I-94 EB		40TH STREET TO HELMER ROAD	ROAD - RESURFACE	7.490					CON
KALAMAZOO	I-94		I-94 BL EB OVER I-94	BRIDGE - SUPERSTRUCTURE REPAIR	0.000			CON		
KALAMAZOO	M-43 (WEST MAIN STREET)		SECOND STREET TO KALAMAZOO WEST CITY LIMIT	ROAD - RESURFACE	7.190					CON
KALAMAZOO	M-89 (GULL ROAD)		RICHLAND WEST VILLAGE LIMIT TO 42ND AVENUE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	5.300	CON				
KALAMAZOO	M-89		M-89 OVER GULL LAKE CREEK	BRIDGE - PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE	0.000			CON		
KALAMAZOO	M-96 (KING HIGHWAY)		SPRINKLE ROAD BRIDGE, KALAMAZOO	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000	CON				
KALAMAZOO	M-96 (KING HIGHWAY)		SPRINKLE ROAD EXIT OVER M-96	BRIDGE - SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT	0.000	CON				
KALAMAZOO	US-131		NORTH OF M-43 TO NORTH OF M-89	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	10.210		CON			
KALAMAZOO	US-131		SCHOOLCRAFT NORTH VILLAGE LIMIT TO U AVENUE	ROAD - RESURFACE AND MINOR WIDENING	0.820			CON		
KALAMAZOO	US-131 SB		US-131 SB OVER D AVENUE	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - DEEP	0.000		CON			
KALAMAZOO	US-131 NB		US-131 NB OVER D AVENUE	BRIDGE - OVERLAY - DEEP	0.000		CON			
ST. JOSEPH	M-216		MARCELLUS TO US-131	ROAD - RESURFACE	8.772				CON	
ST. JOSEPH	M-60 (MAIN STREET)		LITTLE PORTAGE CREEK TO LAKE STREET, MENDON	ROAD - DRAIN CORRECTION, CULVERT REPLACEM	0.080			CON		
ST. JOSEPH	M-60		EAST VILLAGE LIMITS MENDON TO M-66/M60 SPLIT	ROAD - RESURFACE	1.000			CON		
ST. JOSEPH	M-86 (STATE STREET)		OVER SWAN CREEK	BRIDGE - APPROACH WORK	0.000				CON	
ST. JOSEPH	M-86 (STATE STREET)		M-86 OVER SWAN CREEK	BRIDGE - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	0.000				CON	
ST. JOSEPH	US-12 (CHICAGO DRIVE)		CENTERVILLE ROAD TO STURGIS EAST CITY LIMIT	ROAD - RECONSTRUCT EXISTING, NO WIDENING	1.640				CON	
VAN BUREN	I-196		M-140 TO BLACK RIVER	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	5.248					CON
VAN BUREN	I-94		M-51 TO EAST VILLAGE LIMITS OF MATTAWAN	ROAD - MAJOR REHABILITATION	12.005				CON	
VAN BUREN	M-40 (STATE STREET)		VANBUREN STREET TO MILL LAKE ROAD, GOBLES	ROAD - RESURFACE	0.497				CON	
VAN BUREN	M-51 (DELEWARE STREET)		MILLS TO EVERGREEN AVENUE, DECATUR	ROAD - RECONSTRUCT EXISTING, NO WIDENING	1.150	CON				

FIVE YEAR HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE PROGRAM

Repair and Rebuild Roads

COUNTY	ROUTE (NAME)	BM III	LOCATION	TYPE OF WORK	LENGTH	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
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New Roads

BERRIEN	US-31 REL		EXISTING US-31 TO NAPIER ROAD	PAVING	9.564	CON				
BERRIEN	US-31 REL		NORTH OF NAPIER ROAD TO I-94	NEW FREEWAY AND INTERCHANGE AND WETLAND	2.000	EPE	PE,ROW	PE,ROW		
BERRIEN	I-94		AT US-31 RELOCATED	CROSSOVERS	3.015		PE			
ST. JOSEPH	US-131		STATE LINE TO NORTH TOWNSHIP LINE, LOCKPORT TOWN	IMPROVE FACILITY	12.000	EPE	EPE			

Capacity Improvements

KALAMAZOO	I-94		US-131 TO SPRINKLE	WIDEN	2.400	EPE,PE	PE			
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EPE - early preliminary engineering; PE - preliminary engineering; ROW - acquisition of right of way; CON - construction